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BULLETIN OF UNEMPLOYMENT AND SICKNESS BENEFITS STATISTICS  
YEAR ENDED JUNE, 1946

This survey issued by the Commonwealth Statistician (Dr. Roland Wilson) covers the first year's operations of the Unemployment and Sickness Benefits Act, 1944, which came into operation on 1st July, 1945.

The Act provides for the payment of benefit to persons whose normal earnings have been interrupted through unemployment or temporary incapacity. The Act also provides a third class of benefit - designated Special Benefit - which gives a measure of assistance to those persons who, on account of some special circumstance, cannot comply with the statutory requirements relating to unemployment or sickness benefit, and who are prevented from earning a livelihood and are in need.

The rate of benefit per week is 25 shillings for a married person or an unmarried adult, plus 20 shillings for a dependent spouse and 5 shillings if the claimant has the custody, care and control of one or more children under 16 years of age. Thus the maximum benefit is £2.10s. per week. For unmarried juveniles the rate of benefit is 5 shillings if under 18 years and 20 shillings if 18 and under 21 years.

A claimant is allowed a certain income without the rate of benefit being affected. Beyond this allowable amount the rate is reduced by the amount of the excess income.

The numbers of recipients of benefit do not embrace the total unemployment and sickness in the community. Unemployment or sickness of less than seven days duration is not covered due to the provision in the Act of a "waiting period" of this length of time during which no benefit is payable. Permanent incapacity is not included as this is covered by the Invalid and Old Age Pensions Act. The application of the "means test" excludes another group from benefit.

The number of "persons on benefit" in this summary relates to principal beneficiaries who would normally be breadwinners. Dependents of such beneficiaries are not included.

# 1. GENERAL

The information contained in this bulletin has been compiled from data made available by the Department of Social Services.

Advice is received in respect of each admission to benefit followed by a further advice when each benefit is finally discontinued.

The tabulations summarized below are compiled from advices received in this Bureau from the inception of the Act to 27th July, 1946, excluding those which related to benefits commencing after 30th June, 1946. Thus four weeks were allowed to enable delayed advices to reach this Bureau in time for inclusion in the tabulations. This has resulted in admissions to benefit being practically complete. The position with regard to discontinuances is not so satisfactory as in many cases there is a longer interval between the actual date of cessation of benefit and the date the advice reaches this Bureau. Thus, in some instances, advice of benefits discontinued towards the close of the year did not reach this Bureau in time for inclusion in the tabulations. This has resulted in benefits current at the end of the year being overstated, and discontinuances during the year being understated to the same extent.



## 2. SUMMARY - CLAIMS ADMITTED, EXITS, PERSONS ON BENEFIT

During the year ended June, 1946, 114,561 claims were admitted comprising 75,834 unemployment, 38,445 sickness and 282 special benefits, whilst 98,038 (66,945 unemployment, 30,941 sickness and 152 special) of those benefits were discontinued, leaving 16,523 (8,889 unemployment, 7,504 sickness and 130 special) benefits in force at the end of June, 1946.

The total number of benefits granted and discontinued during the year ended June, 1946 and beneficiaries remaining on benefit at 30th June, 1946, in each class of benefit, is shown in the following table:-

### CLAIMS ADMITTED, ETC., FROM 1ST JULY, 1945 TO 30TH JUNE, 1946 : AUSTRALIA

Class of Benefit	Claims admitted during year			Exits during year			On benefit at 30th June, 1946		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Unemployment	63,622	12,212	75,834	55,171	11,774	66,945	8,451	438	8,889
Sickness ..	31,974	6,471	38,445	25,847	5,094	30,941	6,127	1,377	7,504
Special ..	125	157	282	105	47	152	20	110	130
<u>Total:</u>	95,721	18,840	114,561	81,123	16,915	98,038	14,598	1,925	16,523

## 3. BENEFITS PAID

(i) All Benefits : State totals and averages. During the year ended June 1946, £1,055,212 was paid in benefits (£525,070 Unemployment, £525,869 Sickness and £4,273 Special). Since October, 1945, by which time the provisions of the Act had probably become reasonably widely known, the amount paid out in sickness benefits has fluctuated between £50,000 to £60,000 per month. Unemployment benefits reached their peak during January and February, 1946, when over £300,000 was paid in benefits mainly as a result of power rationing in New South Wales and South Australia. During those two months approximately £215,000 was paid in New South Wales and £60,000 in South Australia. Seasonal unemployment in the sugar and meat industries together with industrial troubles in the latter industry accounted for most of the increase in payments in Queensland during the latter half of the year. The increase in Western Australia during the last two months was mainly due to power rationing caused by breakdown of power plant.

The following table shows the benefits paid in respect of each class of benefit in each State and the average amount of benefit paid per person admitted to each class of benefit during the year ended June, 1946:-

### BENEFITS PAID AND AVERAGE PER PERSON ADMITTED DURING 1945-46 : STATES

State	Unemployment		Sickness		Special		Total	
	Amount	Average per person	Amount	Average per person	Amount	Average Per Person	Amount	Average per Person
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
New South Wales(a)	275,205	5.7	198,943	14.1	1,068	8.6	475,216	7.6
Victoria ..	28,234	10.8	139,267	14.2	912	20.3	168,413	13.5
Queensland ..	108,138	11.1	76,306	14.3	624	18.4	185,068	12.3
South Australia(b)	73,226	6.7	53,076	13.1	206	10.8	126,508	8.4
Western Australia	36,440	9.9	34,818	10.3	654	27.2	71,912	10.2
Tasmania ..	3,827	12.4	23,459	13.0	809	22.5	28,095	13.1
<u>TOTAL:</u>	525,070	6.9	525,869	13.7	4,273	15.2	1,055,212	9.2

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory.

(b) Includes Northern Territory.



(ii) Unemployment Benefits: Monthly State Totals. The amounts paid in employment benefit in each State during each month of the year ended June, 1946, were as follows:-

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS PAID DURING EACH MONTH OF 1945-46 : STATES

Month	New South Wales (a)	Victoria	Queensland	South Aust. (a)	Western Australia	Tasmania	Commonwealth
5 -	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
July ..	51	99	8	23	38	13	232
August ..	728	668	77	219	273	43	2,008
September ..	877	656	428	175	306	71	2,513
October ..	1,514	770	612	665	494	184	4,239
November ..	2,897	1,169	1,285	876	807	245	7,279
December ..	12,203	1,145	1,684	1,610	574	203	17,419
6 -							
January ..	132,872	5,118	5,893	52,140	1,910	573	198,506
February ..	82,086	3,727	12,809	7,543	2,987	115	109,267
March ..	9,422	3,222	21,286	2,868	4,986	546	42,330
April ..	9,998	3,217	12,894	1,944	5,863	589	34,505
May ..	13,215	3,801	22,068	2,702	8,921	724	51,431
June ..	9,342	4,642	29,094	2,461	9,281	521	54,961
Total:	275,205	28,234	108,138	73,226	36,440	3,827	525,070

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory. (b) Includes Northern Territory.

4. CLAIMS ADMITTED DURING YEAR

(See also 7 and 8)

(i) Total Persons, State Totals. The following table shows the number of persons in each State admitted to benefit during the year ended June, 1946:-

NUMBER OF PERSONS ADMITTED TO BENEFIT DURING 1945-46 : STATES

State	Unemployment		Sickness		Special		Total		Persons
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	
New South Wales(a)	38,451	10,169	11,665	2,408	78	46	50,194	12,623	62,817
Victoria ..	2,549	61	7,987	1,841	8	37	10,544	1,939	12,483
Queensland ..	9,367	356	4,568	755	14	20	13,949	1,131	15,080
South Australia(b)	9,420	1,485	3,482	569	12	7	12,914	2,061	14,975
Western Australia	3,531	136	2,744	623	11	13	6,286	772	7,058
Tasmania ..	304	5	1,528	275	2	34	1,834	314	2,148
Total:	63,622	12,212	31,974	6,471	125	157	95,721	18,840	114,561

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory. (b) Includes Northern Territory.

(ii) Total Persons, Classification of Beneficiaries by Age and Dependants. The following table claimants admitted to benefit during the year ended June, 1946, have been classified according to type of claimant as determined by the maximum benefit appropriate to the age and conjugal condition of the beneficiary and the number of dependants in respect of whom the beneficiary was entitled to benefit:-

CLAIMS ADMITTED DURING 1945-46 : CLASSIFICATION OF BENEFICIARIES : AUSTRALIA

Type of Claimant	Maximum rate per week	Unemployment		Sickness		Total (a)		
		Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Persons
Under 18 years, unmarried -	shillings							
with no dependants ..	15	2,239	2,169	1,139	836	3,379	3,015	6,394
with dependent child ..	20	-	4	1	3	1	7	8
21 years, unmarried -								
with no dependants ..	20	3,260	3,535	1,745	1,511	5,005	5,056	10,061
with dependent child ..	25	8	18	1	24	9	43	52
Over 21 years, unmarried -								
with no dependants ..	25	14,291	5,360	5,840	3,266	20,161	8,751	28,912
with dependent child ..	30	571	272	318	218	889	494	1,383
Married -								
with no dependants ..	25	1,418	492	1,187	374	2,614	870	3,484
with dependent spouse	45	14,480	33	7,790	14	22,340	47	22,387
with dependent spouse and child ..	50	27,045	27	13,524	19	40,584	46	40,630
with dependent child (no dependent spouse)	30	310	302	429	206	739	511	1,250
Total:	-	63,622	12,212	31,974	6,471	95,721	18,840	114,561

(a) Includes Special Benefits (125 males, 157 females, 282 persons)

NOTE: Unmarried includes widowed and divorced.



The preceding table shows the maximum rate applicable to each type of beneficiary. The actual benefit paid was less in many cases due to the application of a "means test" as to income.

Forty three per cent. of the beneficiaries did not receive any additional benefit in respect of dependants while 35 per cent. received additional benefits in respect of dependent spouse and child, 20 per cent. in respect of dependent spouse only and 2 per cent. in respect of dependent child only.

Fifty nine per cent. of the beneficiaries were married - 69 per cent. of males, and 8 per cent. of females.

## 5. BENEFITS DISCONTINUED

(i) Duration. The number of weeks during which benefit was paid for each of the 98,038 cases of benefit discontinued during the year ended June, 1946, is shown below:-

### DURATION OF BENEFITS DISCONTINUED DURING 1945-46 : AUSTRALIA

Duration of Benefit	Unemployment			Sickness			Total (a)		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
<u>Weeks</u>									
Less than 1	5,798	1,501	7,299	2,120	292	2,412	7,924	1,793	9,717
and under 2	7,976	2,291	10,267	3,968	586	4,554	11,954	2,878	14,832
and under 3	9,891	3,344	13,235	3,290	588	3,878	13,200	3,937	17,137
and under 4	17,401	3,650	21,051	2,843	566	3,409	20,269	4,218	24,487
and under 5	5,897	638	6,535	2,286	470	2,756	8,195	1,111	9,306
and under 9	5,418	234	5,652	5,343	1,129	6,472	10,784	1,369	12,153
and under 13	1,611	63	1,674	2,464	567	3,031	4,079	635	4,714
and under 17	634	22	656	1,277	332	1,609	1,915	359	2,274
and under 21	294	15	309	733	168	901	1,028	190	1,218
and under 25	132	6	138	471	102	573	603	111	714
and over	119	10	129	1,052	294	1,346	1,172	314	1,486
<u>Total:</u>	55,171	11,774	66,945	25,847	5,094	30,941	81,123	16,915	98,038

(a) Includes Special Benefits (105 males, 47 females, 152 persons).

Of the 98,038 benefits discontinued during the first year's operations of the Unemployment and Sickness Benefits Act, 22,559 persons (or 23 per cent.) were in receipt of benefit for five weeks and over, 31,865 (or 33 per cent.) for four weeks and over, 56,352 (or 57 per cent.) for three weeks and over, 73,489 (or 75 per cent.) for two weeks and over, 88,321 (or 90 per cent.) for one week and over, whilst 9,717 (or 10 per cent.) received benefit for less than one week.

The average duration of the 30,941 sickness benefits discontinued was longer than that of the 66,945 unemployment benefits discontinued, being 6.5 as compared with 3.0 weeks for unemployment.

Comparative figures for each State are shown in the following table:-

### AVERAGE DURATION OF BENEFITS DISCONTINUED DURING 1945-46 : STATES

Class of Benefit	Average duration (in weeks)						
	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Tasmania	Commonwealth
Unemployment	2.6	4.7	4.8	3.3	4.0	4.9	3.0
Sickness ..	6.6	7.0	6.1	6.1	5.4	6.3	6.5
Special ..	5.6	12.3	8.0	7.3	6.4	18.7	7.7
<u>Total all Classes:</u>	3.4	6.6	5.4	3.9	4.9	6.2	4.1

The average duration of unemployment benefits in New South Wales and South Australia was much lower than in the other States, due to the large numbers who were admitted to benefit for a comparatively short period in those two States due to power rationing.



(ii) Reasons for Cessation. The reasons for terminating the 98,038 cases of benefits discontinued during the year ended June, 1946 are shown hereunder:-

BENEFITS DISCONTINUED DURING 1945-46 - REASON FOR CESSATION : AUSTRALIA

Reason for Cessation	Unemployment		Sickness		Total (a)		
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Total
Employment secured or resumed ..	43,551	10,033	15,222	2,795	58,854	12,845	71,699
Incapacity terminated ..	-	-	7,069	1,636	7,071	1,636	8,707
Failure to report ..	10,007	1,613	586	225	10,598	1,841	12,439
Failure to comply with a direction under the Act	152	12	21	7	173	19	192
Transfer to another benefit covered by the Act ..	609	69	473	55	1,087	127	1,214
Statutory age limit reached (b) ..	66	-	79	8	150	8	158
Permanent incapacity (c)	110	3	1,017	145	1,130	149	1,279
Compensation and other similar payments ..	16	-	192	10	208	10	218
Transfer to other pensions not covered by the Act ..	199	8	174	21	373	31	404
Death ..	15	1	561	36	579	38	617
Transfer to another State or district ..	381	17	354	112	735	131	866
Other ..	65	18	99	44	165	80	245
<b>Total:</b>	<b>55,171</b>	<b>11,774</b>	<b>25,847</b>	<b>5,094</b>	<b>81,123</b>	<b>16,915</b>	<b>98,038</b>

(a) Includes Special Benefits (105 males, 47 females, 152 persons)

(b) Includes transfer to Old Age Pension. (c) Includes transfer to Invalid Pension.

Of the 66,945 cases of unemployment benefit terminated during the year ended June, 1946, 65,204 (97.4 per cent.) secured employment or failed to report (which in the great majority of cases means that the person has secured employment without advising the Department of Social Services) and 1,076 (1.6 per cent.) transferred to sickness or Special Benefit (mainly Sickness) or to another district.

Of the 30,941 cases of sickness benefit terminated, 27,533 (89 per cent.) recovered from their illness and presumably resumed employment, 1,162 (3.8 per cent.) were classified as permanently incapacitated which in the vast majority of cases means that they were transferred to Invalid Pension, 994 (3.3 per cent.) transferred to Unemployment or Special Benefit (mainly Unemployment) or to another district and 597 (1.9 per cent.) died.

6. PERSONS ON BENEFIT AT END OF JUNE, 1946  
(See also 7 and 8)

(i) Total Persons. (a) Proportion per 10,000 in Employment. The proportion of persons on benefit at 30th June, 1946 to the estimated number of employees in employment was approximately 71 per 10,000 comprising 38 unemployment, 32 sickness and 1 special case per 10,000.

The following table shows the proportions for males and females separately:-

PROPORTION OF PERSONS ON BENEFIT AT 30TH JUNE, 1946 PER 10,000 WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS IN EMPLOYMENT : AUSTRALIA

Sex	Proportion	Proportion on benefit per 10,000 in employment			
		Unemployment	Sickness	Special	Total
Males ..	per 10,000 males ..	51	37	-	88
Females	per 10,000 females	6	21	2	29
Persons	per 10,000 persons	38	32	1	71



(ii) Total Persons. (b) State Totals. The number of persons in each State in receipt of benefit at 30th June, 1946, were as follows:-

NUMBER OF PERSONS ON BENEFIT AT 30TH JUNE, 1946 : STATES

State	Unemployment		Sickness		Special		Total		Persons
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	
New South Wales(a)	1,537	128	2,287	486	7	29	3,831	643	4,474
Victoria ..	592	18	1,525	424	2	24	2,119	466	2,585
Queensland ..	4,026	197	906	165	2	18	4,934	380	5,314
South Australia(b)	442	7	696	109	2	5	1,140	121	1,261
Western Australia	1,768	86	457	137	6	9	2,231	232	2,463
Tasmania ..	86	2	256	56	1	25	343	83	427
Total:	8,451	438	6,127	1,377	20	110	14,598	1,925	16,523

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory. (b) Includes Northern Territory.

7. UNEMPLOYMENT - CLAIMS ADMITTED DURING YEAR AND PERSONS ON BENEFIT AT END OF YEAR

(i) Cause of unemployment. The following table analyses the main reasons for loss of employment as given by the 75,834 persons admitted to unemployment benefit during the year ended June, 1946.

Difficulty has been experienced in classifying causes of unemployment due to the vague reasons given by some beneficiaries.

In an attempt to remedy this a new classification was introduced on 1st July, 1946 and efforts are being made in respect of admissions to benefit after that date, to obtain an adequate reason why each beneficiary became unemployed.

CAUSE OF UNEMPLOYMENT - CLAIMS ADMITTED DURING 1945-46 : AUSTRALIA

Cause of Unemployment	Claims admitted during year		
	Males	Females	Persons
Due to discharge or lay-off by employer -			
Power rationing ..	37,756	11,076	48,832
Seasonal work completed ..	4,826	154	4,980
Re-arrangement of staff, replaced by returned service personnel ..	1,282	73	1,355
Industrial dispute (other than strikers), lock-out (a) ..	1,148	122	1,270
Inefficiency ..	714	28	742
Misconduct ..	192	7	199
Other and ill-defined discharges or lay-offs ..	12,961	476	13,437
Due to employee quitting the job ..	1,232	91	1,323
Work too heavy, ill health (b) ..	2,947	174	3,121
Ex-service personnel not yet returned to work ..	374	3	377
Other and ill-defined causes ..	190	8	198
Total:	63,622	12,212	75,834

(a) Direct participants in strikes are not eligible for benefit.

(b) It has not been possible to allocate these between discharges and quits.

Of the 75,834 unemployment claims admitted during the year 48,832 (64 per cent.) were due to power restrictions imposed on industry mainly in New South Wales and South Australia during December, 1945 and early January, 1946. In New South Wales 39,195 persons (29,630 males, 9,565 females) gave power rationing as the cause of their unemployment. Corresponding figures for South Australia were 9,057 persons (7,618 males, 1,439 females).



(ii) Agos. The distribution of unemployment beneficiaries by age groups is shown in the following table:-

GROUPED AGE - UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS ADMITTED DURING YEAR ENDED JUNE, 1946  
AND PERSONS ON BENEFIT AT 30TH JUNE, 1946 : AUSTRALIA

Grouped Age (as at 31st Dec., 1945)	Claims admitted during 1945-46			On benefit at 30th June, 1946		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
16-19 years	4,818	4,650	9,468	489	163	652
20-24 "	6,270	3,746	10,016	696	118	814
25-29 "	8,502	1,279	9,781	750	59	809
30-34 "	8,938	816	9,754	839	25	864
35-39 "	7,454	563	8,017	780	20	800
40-44 "	6,829	384	7,213	931	17	948
45-49 "	5,949	352	6,301	1,021	15	1,036
50-54 "	5,344	241	5,585	950	10	960
55-59 "	5,403	181	5,584	1,079	11	1,090
60-64 "	4,115	-	4,115	916	-	916
Total:	63,622	12,212	75,834	8,451	438	8,889

(iii) Industrial Groups. The distribution, according to main industrial groups of those admitted to unemployment benefit during the year ended June, 1946 and of those in receipt of benefit at 30th June, 1946 was as follows:-

INDUSTRIAL GROUPS - UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS ADMITTED DURING YEAR ENDED JUNE, 1946  
AND PERSONS ON BENEFIT AT 30TH JUNE, 1946 : AUSTRALIA

Industrial Group	Claims admitted during 1945-46			On benefit at 30th June, 1946		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Agriculture, Pastoral and Dairying ..	3,372	14	3,386	924	3	927
Other Primary Production ..	282	-	282	91	-	91
Coal Mining ..	347	-	347	21	-	21
Other Mining and Quarrying ..	434	1	435	158	1	159
Factories and Industrial -						
Founding, engineering, metal working including shipbuilding ..	24,384	2,232	26,616	1,059	23	1,082
Vehicles, including aircraft ..	4,327	188	4,515	212	6	218
Textiles and articles of dress ..	3,666	6,555	10,221	97	72	169
Food, drink and tobacco ..	5,664	1,009	6,673	1,889	149	2,038
Furniture, woodwork, etc. ..	1,986	92	2,078	166	2	168
Other Factories, including heat, light and power ..	7,421	946	8,367	454	7	461
Building and Construction ..	2,944	-	2,944	586	-	586
Transport and Communication ..	2,102	36	2,138	577	9	586
Commerce and Finance -						
Wholesale and retail trade ..	2,797	254	3,051	901	38	939
Finance and Property ..	152	11	163	51	3	54
Public Administration and Professional	1,815	83	1,898	697	36	733
Personal and Domestic Service ..	1,586	763	2,349	413	74	487
Other ..	343	28	371	155	15	170
Total:	63,622	12,212	75,834	8,451	438	8,889

The States with the largest numbers of males in receipt of unemployment benefit at 30th June, 1946 in the principal industrial groups were:-

- Food, etc., factories. (Commonwealth 1,889 males) - Queensland 1,590 (Rockhampton 896, Brisbane 298 - mainly meatworks), Western Australia 106 (Perth 77).
- Founding, engineering, etc. (1,059) - New South Wales 427 (Newcastle 141, Lambton 76), Western Australia 309 (Perth 270).
- Agriculture, pastoral, etc. (924) - Queensland 537 (Mackay 176, Cairns 98 - mainly sugar growing and sheep grazing), New South Wales 195 (Orange 57, Broken Hill 48).
- Wholesale and retail trade. (901) - Queensland 345 (Brisbane 176, Rockhampton 45), Western Australia 264 (Perth 205).
- Public administration and professional. (697)
  - (a) Civilian employees of Allied Government forces (334) - Queensland 231 (Brisbane 191), New South Wales 49.
  - (b) Local Government administration (147) - Queensland 83.
  - (c) Other public administration (122) - Queensland 50.
  - (d) Health, hospitals, etc. (96) - Queensland 34.



8.
- Building and Construction (586)
- (a) Construction, etc. of buildings (308) - Queensland 147 (Brisbane 53), Western Australia 64, New South Wales 62.
- (b) Construction, etc. of roads, railways, earthworks, etc. (278) - Queensland 152, New South Wales 52.

Transport (577)

- (a) Road Transport (172) - Queensland 72 (Brisbane 53).
- (b) Loading and discharging vessels (168) - Queensland 126 (Rockhampton 54, Brisbane 44).
- (c) Rail and Air Transport (100) - Queensland 42.
- (d) Shipping (92) - Queensland 49.

(iv) Metropolitan and Other. Unemployment Benefits granted during the year ended 30th June, 1946 and those current at 30th June, 1946 are dissected into "Metropolitan" and "Other" districts (based on the usual place of residence of the beneficiary) in the following table:-

DISTRIBUTION OF UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFICIARIES BETWEEN METROPOLITAN AND OTHER DISTRICTS (a) - STATES

State	Claims admitted during 1945-46				On benefit at 30th June, 1946			
	Metropolitan		Other		Metropolitan		Other	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
New South Wales	26,445	7,604	12,006	2,565	469	26	1,068	102
Victoria ..	1,206	41	1,343	20	206	9	386	9
Queensland ..	2,246	21	7,121	335	1,259	12	2,767	185
South Australia ..	8,810	1,435	610	50	385	6	57	1
Western Australia	2,927	117	604	19	1,570	78	198	8
Tasmania ..	217	1	87	4	64	1	22	1
Total:	41,851	9,219	21,771	2,993	3,953	132	4,498	306

(a) Metropolitan comprises the regions administered from Capital city and Suburban district offices of the Department of Social Services. In South Australia Port Adelaide and in Western Australia Fremantle and Midland Junction are included in Metropolitan. In New South Wales Liverpool is included in "Other".

8. SICKNESS - CLAIMS ADMITTED DURING YEAR AND PERSONS ON BENEFIT AT END OF YEAR

(i) Nature of Sickness. The principal types of sickness, as stated on medical certificates, etc., of those admitted to Sickness Benefit during the year ended June, 1946 and of those who were in receipt of Sickness Benefit at 30th June, 1946 are indicated in the next table:-

NATURE OF SICKNESS - CLAIMS ADMITTED TO BENEFIT DURING 1945-46 AND PERSONS ON BENEFIT AT 30TH JUNE, 1946 : AUSTRALIA

Nature of Sickness	Claims admitted during 1945-46			On benefit at 30th June, 1946		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Infective and Parasitic Diseases	2,257	490	2,747	381	110	491
Cancer .. .. .	250	28	278	61	8	69
Other Tumours .. .. .	263	132	445	41	37	78
Rheumatism, Diseases of Nutrition and Vitamin-Deficiency Diseases	1,986	464	2,450	496	138	634
Diseases of -						
Blood and Blood-forming organs	201	169	370	51	38	89
Nervous System and Sense Organs	2,881	886	3,767	571	199	770
Circulatory System .. .. .	2,959	270	3,229	787	78	865
Respiratory System .. .. .	3,710	491	4,201	645	106	751
Digestive System .. .. .	6,978	1,319	8,297	1,018	183	1,201
Genito-Urinary System .. .. .	1,343	431	1,774	280	79	359
Pregnancy, Childbirth, etc. .. .. .	-	353	353	-	121	121
Skin and Cellular Tissue .. .. .	2,010	309	2,319	303	46	349
Bones and Organs of Movement	925	149	1,074	170	26	196
Other Diseases (including Ill-Defined Conditions) .. .. .	549	220	769	96	46	142
Injuries and Acute Poisoning -						
Fractures .. .. .	2,707	245	2,952	732	70	802
Other Injuries, etc. .. .. .	2,554	251	2,805	421	57	478
Operations (original disability not stated) .. .. .	296	182	478	37	25	62
Other .. .. .	105	32	137	37	10	47
Total:	31,974	6,471	38,445	6,127	1,377	7,504



An analysis of the 38,445 sickness benefits admitted during the year ended 1946 reveals the most prevalent diseases, etc. included in each of the main types as follows:-

Infective and parasitic diseases - influenza (726 males, 88 females), tuberculosis (133);

Rheumatism, etc. - acute rheumatic fever (277, 109), chronic rheumatism and other rheumatic diseases (1,144, 153), ill-defined rheumatism (254, 41);

Diseases of the nervous system, etc. - mental disorders and deficiency (1,193, 625), neuritis (79), diseases of the organs of vision (426, 44);

Diseases of the circulatory system - diseases of the myocardium (530, 25), diseases of the coronary arteries and angina pectoris (438, 13), other and unspecified heart diseases (791, 13), varicose veins (539, 42), idiopathic high blood pressure (322, 55);

Diseases of the respiratory system - bronchitis (1,097, 123); pneumonia and pleurisy (1,464, 133), asthma (390, 50), sinusitis (224, 34);

Diseases of the digestive system - appendicitis (2,085, 746), hernia (1,106, 32), ulcer of stomach (899, 40), ulcer of duodenum (717, 25), diseases of pharynx and tonsils (548, 182);

Diseases of the genito-urinary system - diseases of the kidneys and ureters (836, 184); diseases of the female genital organs, not specified as venereal (-, 229);

Fractures - of the lower limbs (1,087, 121), of the upper limbs (870, 77);

Other injuries - open wounds, perforations and lacerations (599, 43), sprains and strains (1,488, 48), head injuries (278, 29).

(ii) Ages. In the following table the sickness beneficiaries are distributed according to age groups:-

GROUPED AGE - SICKNESS CLAIMS ADMITTED DURING 1945-46 AND PERSONS ON BENEFIT AT 30TH JUNE, 1946 : AUSTRALIA

Grouped Age (as at 31st Dec. 1945)	Claims admitted during 1945-46			On benefit at 30th June, 1946		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
16-19 years	2,504	1,925	4,429	435	359	794
20-24 "	2,287	1,625	3,912	409	313	722
25-29 "	2,929	670	3,599	466	118	584
30-34 "	3,475	496	3,971	564	132	696
35-39 "	3,690	429	4,119	595	113	708
40-44 "	3,623	401	4,024	663	107	770
45-49 "	3,572	413	3,985	694	107	801
50-54 "	3,447	318	3,765	741	79	820
55-59 "	3,779	194	3,973	938	49	987
60-64 "	2,668	-	2,668	622	-	622
Total:	31,974	6,471	38,445	6,127	1,377	7,504

(iii) Incidence of Sickness according to age. The following table analyses the incidence of male admissions to sickness benefit during the year ended June, 1946 in the main types of sickness according to specified age groups:-

INCIDENCE OF MAIN TYPES OF SICKNESS IN SPECIFIED AGE GROUPS - MALES ADMITTED TO SICKNESS BENEFIT DURING 1945-46 - AUSTRALIA

Nature of Sickness	16-29 years	30-44 years	45-64 years	Total
	%	%	%	%
Infectious and Parasitic Diseases ..	27	39	34	100
Rheumatism, Diseases of Nutrition, etc. Diseases of -	17	33	50	100
Nervous System and Sense Organs ..	19	38	43	100
Circulatory System ..	7	22	71	100
Respiratory System ..	17	32	51	100
Digestive System ..	28	37	35	100
Fractures ..	44	30	26	100
Other Injuries ..	38	35	27	100
Total:	24	34	42	100



The effect of age on certain types of disease is clearly indicated in the preceding table. Diseases of the circulatory system (heart diseases, etc.) are shown to be essentially diseases of advancing years. In this category 71 per cent. of the males were 45 years of age and over. Rheumatism (other than acute rheumatic fever) and diseases of the respiratory system also reveal the same tendency but to a lesser degree. Diseases of the digestive system are more evenly distributed throughout the different age groups. Injuries are more prevalent in the lower age groups due in part to the greater activity of youth. Most of the injuries included are non-occupational as occupational injuries are generally covered by compensation and therefore do not usually come within the ambit of the Act.

Owing to the rapid decline in numbers of females in employment in the higher age groups the influence of age on the different types of diseases is not evident from a similar consideration of females granted sickness benefit. This decline explains in part the relatively small number of heart diseases amongst female beneficiaries, the other factor being that these diseases are less prevalent amongst females generally.

(iv) Industrial Groups. The distribution, according to main industrial groups, of those admitted to sickness benefit during the year and those on benefit at 30th June, 1946 is shown in the next table:-

INDUSTRIAL GROUPS : SICKNESS CLAIMS ADMITTED DURING 1945-46  
AND PERSONS ON BENEFIT AT 30TH JUNE, 1946 : AUSTRALIA

Industrial Group	Claims admitted during 1945-46			On benefit at 30th June, 1946		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Agriculture, Pastoral and Dairying	2,212	38	2,250	487	14	501
Other Primary Production ..	612	2	614	117	1	118
Coal Mining ..	1,406	4	1,410	264	-	264
Other Mining and Quarrying ..	543	1	544	117	-	117
Factories and Industrial -						
Founding, engineering, metal working including shipbuilding ..	6,408	355	6,763	1,096	54	1,150
Vehicles, including aircraft ..	1,675	82	1,757	259	9	268
Textiles and articles of dress ..	1,270	1,445	2,715	228	256	484
Food, drink and tobacco ..	2,408	546	2,954	421	97	518
Furniture, woodworking, etc. ..	1,258	39	1,297	218	9	227
Other Factories, including heat, light and power ..	2,855	394	3,249	499	87	586
Building and Construction ..	2,980	4	2,984	586	1	587
Transport and Communication ..	2,884	200	3,084	598	47	645
Commerce and Finance -						
Wholesale and retail trade ..	2,569	1,001	3,570	546	203	749
Finance and Property ..	134	75	209	37	14	51
Public Administration and Professional	1,515	909	2,424	344	241	585
Personal and Domestic Service ..	1,120	1,360	2,480	280	341	621
Other ..	125	16	141	30	3	33
Total:	31,974	6,471	38,445	6,127	1,377	7,504

(v) Metropolitan and Other. Sickness Benefits granted during the year ended June, 1946 and those current at 30th June, 1946 are dissected into "Metropolitan" and "Other" districts (based on the usual place of residence of the beneficiary) in the following table:-

DISTRIBUTION OF SICKNESS BENEFICIARIES BETWEEN METROPOLITAN  
AND OTHER DISTRICTS(a) : STATES

State	Claims admitted during 1945-46				On benefit at 30th June, 1946			
	Metropolitan		Other		Metropolitan		Other	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
New South Wales ..	6,047	1,645	5,618	763	1,142	319	1,145	167
Victoria ..	5,169	1,250	2,818	591	959	296	566	128
Queensland ..	1,931	417	2,637	338	39	95	513	70
South Australia ..	2,312	392	1,170	177	490	88	206	21
Western Australia ..	1,571	444	1,173	179	288	108	169	29
Tasmania ..	618	109	910	166	106	25	150	31
Total:	17,648	4,257	14,326	2,214	3,378	931	2,749	446

a) Metropolitan comprises the regions administered from Capital City and suburban district offices of the Department of Social Services. In South Australia, Port Adelaide and in Western Australia, Midland Junction are included in Metropolitan. In New South Wales Liverpool is included in "Other".

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CANBERRA. A.C.T.

1ST OCTOBER, 1946.